ISSUE 29

WRESTLING THEN & NOW

JUNE 1992

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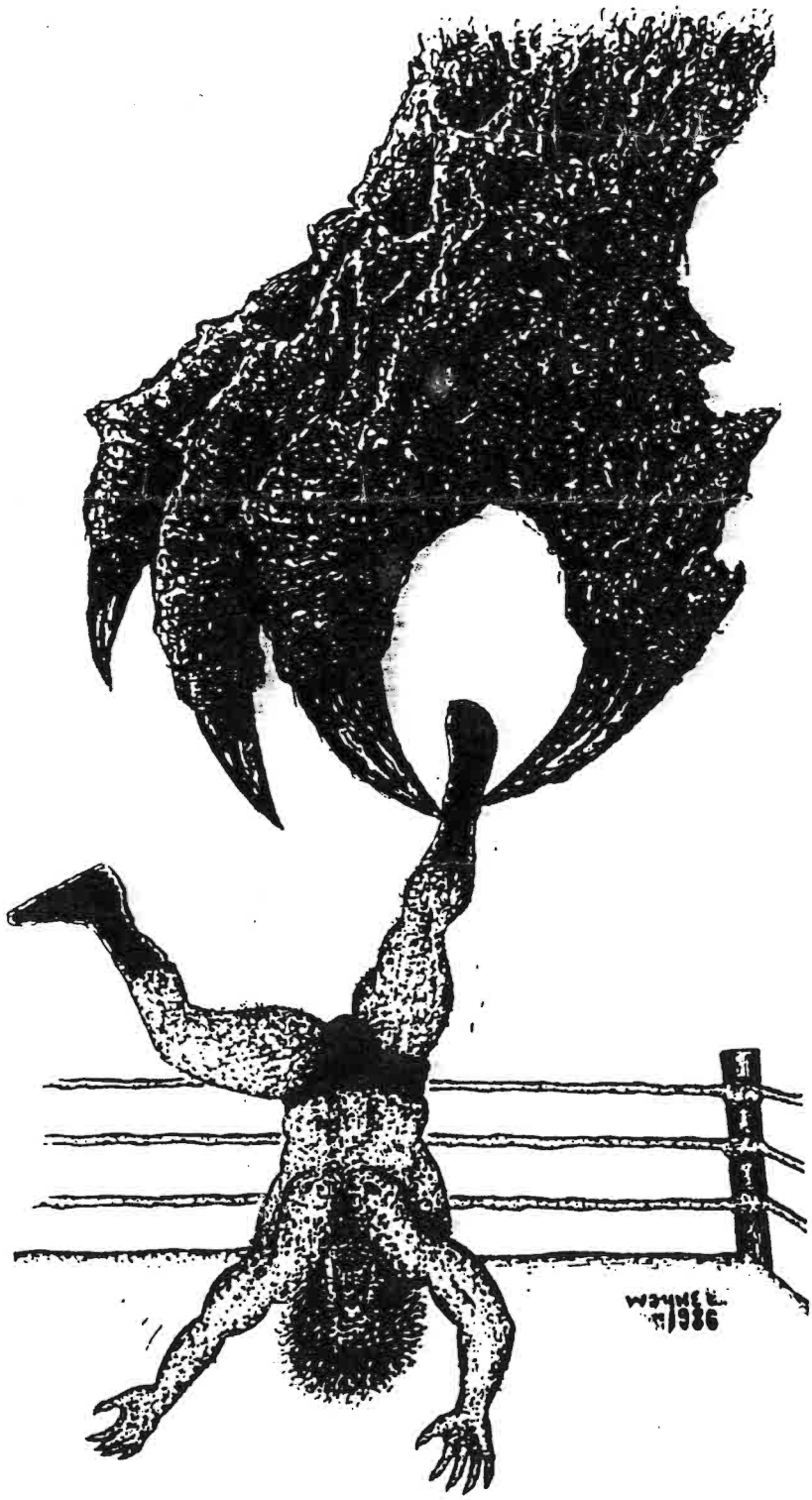
DROP IN FOR ANOTHER WT&N BLAST FROM THE PAST!



THE LISTENING POST
BY: EVAN GINZBURG

When I'm not working on this sheet, or teaching foreign adults English two nights a week, reality is my desk job with the NYC Board of Education.

Like any administrative gig, there's tons of paper work, and to alleviate the monotony, radios play all day. The secretaries often listen to rap and we have this ongoing game that I ALWAYS win.

"Who'd they sample (a polite word for STEAL) that beat from?" I'll ask as they intently listen to the latest jam.

"I don't know," they'll repsond.

Invevitably it'll be James Brown or George Clinton, and sometimes it'll be a riff from a 25 year old record.

They're always amazed that a "young" white guy will know "old" Black music.

Well, I don't think it's so amazing. If you love something I think you should explore it's history. For many of today's youth, if it's not NOW, it's simply not relevant, and I think this mindset for the most part also applies to wrestling promoters and fans alike.

As we know, today's promotions will take a wrestler like Ricky Steamboat, a former NWA and Inter-Continental champion and steal his name. During his last disastrous WWF stint, his great background was forgotten, and he became just another gimmick performer to fill out a card. Similarly, titles are ignored or dropped at will, and activities in other promotions are almost never mentioned upon entrance to a new area. It's an outrage, but an ongoing reality. For the most part, except for us hardcores, fans do not know or care about such atrocities.

Which brings me to this bulletin.

Longtime readers know that WT&N respects the wrestling of yesterday. We don't ignore it- we CHERISH it. I also think one of the fun things about doing WT&N is that I also get to LEARN about wrestling's past along with my readers. I am intrigued by those who came before me, or those whose exploits I have little knowledge of. For example, when I get an article by Ron Dobratz on Chicago 1952, I'm fascinated by the long-lost names and match-ups. There's certainly more imprtant things in life than wrestling history, but for me, few are as pleasureable. As an educator by trade, I enjoy providing this information for those who care enough to want it.

As this sheet has evolved, it's also gone beyond just "nostalgia." When Mark S. Hewitt wrote about wrestling in 1920, he's not sharing his memories, nor is there a single reader who's old enough to be reliving theirs'. It's HISTORY, pure and simple, and I'm proud that WT&N is attempting to preserve what society in general mocks.

Our sport has NEVER gotten the respect it deserves, and part of this problem is we now have promoters who push dogs, birds, and steroid monsters over WRESTLING. They disrespect the fans and spit on their own proud tradition.

Such will never be the case here at WT&N...

IRON MIKE EINHORN- BABE MAGNET
(The Man Who Knows Wrestling Like The Palm Of His Hand)

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The difference between indie cards and the WWF? Like the difference between shooting a bullet and throwing one!

A subscription to WT&N is the perfect gift for someone you're trying to drive to suicide.

Some memories of spending a night at the Ginzburg residence: When I went to bed, the sheets were already warm. The soap had teeth marks in it and all night long people were knocking on his front door claiming to have an appointment with someone named Donna.

An ideal Father's Day gift: an "Ask me about my gay son"- tee shirt.

I've been spending my weekends in prison.

I go through women like most men go through Kleenex.

This is Deja-vu all over again. We seem to have a recurring theme here.

Boy, wouldn't a big sloppy pizza and an 8-pack taste great right about now? My mouth is watering already.

I went to my friend's wedding last week. The entertainment consisted of a midget with a casio on his lap...he looked like a fly with a mustache.

And now you know the REST of the story.

Instant gratification takes too long.

In closing, remember: "You can't put your arms around a memory."

"I can't even put my arms around you."

Well, I gotta go: like June Allyson after a freakin' six pack.

LETTERS TO WT&N

Bill Kunkel's brilliant PotShot at the (W)WF championshp hair club for men stirred a couple of memories of the Living Legend.

In the late '60's, Bruno had a burgeoning bald spot on the back of his head so he began growing his hair very long, then flopping it back. That was fine until the match started so Bruno began covering the bald spot with black shoe polish. I can still remember Killer Kowalski coming out of a spot with a big black smudge on his midsection. Tony Marino also adopted the shoe polish solution.

By 1972 or '73 Bruno got one of the early hair weaves. There's a priceless tape somewhere in Vince's archives of the piece coming loose and leaving the back of his head exposed. Referee Dick Whoerle covered magnificently. He went to check on Bruno and smoothed the piece back down.

JOHN MEHNO
BADEN, PA.

Dear Evan,

Yep, I'm late again... just back from an extended vacation to Sydney (and specifically the comic con. there), and so, once again, I apologise. One of my unfortunate character traits is my inability to get anything done regularly, and on time!

I hope these enclosed cartoons are to your liking... the Spike / Jack meeting of the minds is (in my opinion), one of the better things I've done in quite some time... talk about being destined for each other.

Thanks also for the continued exposure of my work in "Wrestling Then And Now"... and rest assured, there's more to come. That's not only a promise, it's a threat!

YOURS 'TIL THE BOMBS DROP

From: Jason Conlan
452 HAMILTON RD.
CHERMSIDE, QLD
4032, AUSTRALIA.

JACK MEETS —SPIKE—

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A HISTORY OF THE VON ERICHS IN ST. LOUIS

By: Don Gene Smith

Part Five - 1982 and 1983

My records of the Von Erichs in St. Louis are incomplete for the first part of 1982. Perhaps someone else can supply the missing months. Therefore, I pick up the history again in June of 1982:

June 12 - David and Kerry beat Ken Patera and Crusher Blackwell.

July 16 - Kerry, Dewey Robertson, and Rufus R. Jones beat Von Raschke, Roger Kirby, and Hercules Hernandez.

December 3 - Kerry beat Hercules Hernandez.

1983

January 1 - Kerry became history's youngest Missouri State Champion as he defeated Harley Race for the title. In doing so, he also became the second Von Erich to hold that particular championship, Kevin being the first.

February 11 - Kerry successfully defended the Missouri State Championship against Greg Valentine.

February 25 - Kerry successfully defends the Missouri State Championship against Cowboy Bob Orton.

March 11 - Kerry wrestled Super Destroyer in a match in which neither the Missouri State Championship nor the mask were at stake.

March 23 - Ric Flair successfully defended the NWA World Championship against Kerry.

David & Bruiser Brody wrestled Harley Race & Greg Valentine to a double disqualification.

April 7 - Crusher Blackwell defeated Kerry for the Missouri State Championship.

April 29 - Harley Race beat David.

May 13 - Kerry & George Wells beat Yasi Fuji & Kim Duk.

June 10 - David beat Cowboy Bob Orton.

When Harley Race defeated Ric Flair for the NWA World Championship on June 10, he vacated his Missouri State Championship. On July 18, David participated in a tournament designed to crown a new state champion. Ric Flair emerged the winner of that tournament by defeating David in the final round.

August 5 - David, Hulk Hogan, & Dick the Bruiser beat Crusher Blackwell, Blackjack Mulligan, & Von Raschke.

August 26 - David & Jerry Lawler beat Blackjack Mulligan & Blackjack Lanza.

September 16 - David defeated Ric Flair to win the Missouri State Championship, thus becoming the third and final Von Erich to hold that title.

October 8 - David & Barry Windham beat Crusher Blackwell and Super Destroyer.

October 21 - David successfully defended the Missouri State Championship against Super Destroyer.

November 4 - Ric Flair sussessfully defended the NWA World Championship against David.

November 25 - David successfully defended the Missouri State Championship against Harley Race via double disqualification.

December 9 - Harley Race defeated David for the Missouri State Championship.

That loss marked David's final St. Louis appearance. On February 10 he died mysteriously in a Japanese hotel room. As most people know, at the time of his death, David was slated to become the next NWA World Champion. The best of the brothers, David was convincing as either a heel or babyface, although St. Louis saw only his heroic persona. He would have been a fine NWA champ.

Death must have been in the air then, for St. Louis was soon to die as a major wrestling city. On June 18, former Sam Muchnick aide Larry Matysik ran the first card of his new promotion in competition with the NWA. At about that same time, Vince McMahon bought the "Wrestling at the Chase" television time slot and invaded the territory with his unique brand of WWF "sports entertainment." Wrestling changed after that, and the hardcore fans had nowhere to go - but that is another story.

In conclusion, none of the Von Erich boys was ever as good as Fritz. David came the closest, both in the ring and with a microphone. But all three who wrestled in St. Louis from 1976 to 1983 were charismatic draws as well as good ring workers. With all that has happened since, that simple fact should not be forgotten.

NOTE: I would welcome any additions or corrections to this history of the Von Erichs in St. Louis.

UPCOMING FROM DON GENE SMITH:
SUPERSTAR GRAHAM IN ST. LOUIS

<u>NEXT ISSUE</u>: Historic matches from early in the century, David Williamson, Iron Mike Einhorn, Vic Stanley, Dr. Mike Lano, More title histories, An exclusive interview, original art & much, much more.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH WRESTLING WRITER DALE PIERCE
BY: EVAN GINZBURG

Editor's Note: Dale Pierce is a published author of several books, a former contributing editor to the defunct Official Wrestling, and a writer for Wrestling World (the Alan Bolte wrestling column is actually the work of about half a dozen contributors). He is an expert on bullfighting, horror cinema, and a noted historian. Pierce is also known in wrestling circles for his truly outspoken nature. He generally professes a "deep hatred over the new breed of wrestling sheet," but "felt Wrestling- Then & Now to be different from the norm." Buckle yourself in- Mr. Pierce doesn't pull any punches, and is thus in my opinion an interesting interview.

EG: Why did Official Wrestling go under?

DP: OW was out in an era before wrestling was a hot number. We had fun with it and turned a profit, but the editor and publisher, Lew Eskin, wanted to go into other businesses, which he did. He, and a lot of us, got fed up with the changes in wrestling in the mid-1980's. The calibre of wrestling is different, the fans are different, the promoters are different- it just isn't the same. Sure, wrestling is much more popular now, but at what cost! It's been turned into a freak show! Granted, back in the 70's and 80's there were the gimmicks and so on, but not like today. Now talent is secondary to steroid-puffed wonders and circus gimmicks. To see a guy like Rick Steamboat coming into the ring dressed like he ought to go trick or treating or a hundred other examples of taking talented wrestlers, who are too good to rely on stupid gimmicks, going ahead and doing it anyway, revolts a lot of people. Many of the wrestlers today are a bunch of drug-burned, overpaid, underworked... (expletive deleted).

EG: Why is it then, if you are so disgusted with the current trend in wrestling, that you hate the sheets so much?

DP: Most people involved with wrestling from the inside, myself included at various levels in and out of the ring, hate the bulletins, but not for the reasons the editors think. Wrestlers all say "These things smarten people," or "these things hurt the business." Get real. When you have nationwide magazines like Wrestling Eye downgrading the wrestling business, printing articles on wrestling jargon, and so on, how can they worry aobut what is said in some halfassed bulletin? The real reason is wrestlers love to read gossip, until they are the ones gossiped about, and then they go into orbit. To an extent, I can't say I blame them. Here you have former newspaper reporters, high school kids, and other wiseasses who have never wrestled in their lives, nor been anything but fans someone on the inside happened to put smart, making these wisecracks about the talents of people in the ring. They, themselves, could not do what they are doing. For a while, I hated this too, as I was involved in that old school of "protect the wrestling business at all costs," which is becoming a dying thing. I used to think, "Hey, high school punk, if you think what these men are doing is so easy, why don't you get in the ring and do it yourself! Then you'll sing a different song!" You see, I grew up watching and experiencing the hard knocks wrestlers went through in the by-gone era and learned to respect them. Even the poorest workers around deserved respect for having the guts to step into the ring and to an extent I saw and still see a number of these fanzine editors as nothing but armchair quarterbacks who wish or wished they could be up there themselves but lacked the guts to do so, and thus would get as close to wrestling as they could by putting out fanzines and pretending to be a part of the business, living a fantasy role and thinking themselves important like this one California guy I'm not going to mention, but he knows damned well who I mean...

EG: But aren't you contradicting yourself? A minute ago you said you hated the wrestling business yourself, yet you turn right around and downgrade others for expressing criticism of the business?

DP: (laughs) Call it personal prejudice. Since I've done inside work at one time or another at just about every level of wrestling, I have what I'd call an "insider's viewpoint." You'll find most wrestlers, promoters, and managers are the same. Their attitude is, "Hey, this is OUR business, and we can knock anyone we want, but we don't want any outsiders doing the same thing." It's a do as I say, but not as I do type of attitude and if you feel around, you'll find most wrestlers the same way. And as much as I profess hating what wrestling has become in the past five years or so, I'm still addicted to it (laughs again). This doesn't make much sense, but what in wrestling does?

EG: Perhaps we should change the subject then. Who do you consider to be the greatest wrestler of modern times?

DP: By modern I assume you mean the past few decades? Well, it sure isn't Ric Flair and whenever I hear that "greatest champion of all time," line they give on tv I laugh. He's the best there is right now, but in a world of midgets, the average size man looks like a giant and Flair comes across as terrific because his competition is so God-awful. Don't get me wrong. I do think Flair is great, from just about every angle. It's getting a bit boring seeing him all the time, but as far as his ability goes, he's tremendous. This "living legend" and "greatest of all time," thing really bugs me though. I for one, would rate Buddy Rogers as the greatest of all time- as far as bad guy or heel goes, because A. He was and B. Flair copied a good bit of his routine from him, right down to the strut, fancy robes, and figure 4 leglock. As a babyface or fan favorite, I'd rate Lou Thesz way above the others. Another vastly underated tough guy was the German, Karl Gotch, from the 60's and 70's. He never held the NWA or WWF world title as a single, but could have tied the bulk of the stars into knots. I think one reason why he never received title shots, barring a brief stint in the east as tag champs with Rene Goulet if I recall right, was because I don't think the offices trusted him. I think the promotions were afraid to put a belt on him for fear that once he had it, they would never get it off him or he wouldn't lose when told...

EG: You took an unusual initiative with Riot At The Garden. What was it?

DP: Riot At The Garden was a program book first released in 1980 and sold as a program at the Arizona matches. I still have some copies left at $4.00 direct from me at Box 23241, Phoenix, Az. 85063. The book aims at a time prior to the 1980 Barry Bernsten/Bette Clarke/Skip De Jourdy consecutive promotion fiascos, when wrestling was still a hot item in Phoenix. The title is derived from the place where Phoenix wrestling was held from the 1920's through the 1970's. A wrestler, Big Jim Wright, was killed there, sometime in the 60's I believe. It talks about a lot of people history would otherwise have forgotten.

EG: And you also included wrestling in your horror novel, Play Me The Song Of Death.

DP: I would be denying it if I could, but that was an exploitative action by me, an attempt to sell a few added copies to wrestling fans rather than simply the horror genre. The characters are a wrestler and his manager, based loosely on Jody Arnold and Marcial Bovee, two characters from out here in the early 1980's. Anyone interested in this can get the book from me too, at $6.00, same address.

EG: And your most recent, Wild West Characters, is out now. Your inclusion of wrestlers in this strikes some people as peculiar. Is it another attempt just to use wrestling to sell more copies?

DP: No, not in this case, because wrestling was wide-spread in the Wild West days, yet ignored by most books and magazine articles. It was about half-shoot/half-work for the bulk of the time. It wasn't the organized mayhem you see today, but there were plenty of scams and gimmicks as well. Many wrestlers wrestled in a "ring" which consisted of ropes thrown up and staked into a square, over a mud puddle or grass field. Others ran carnival shows and travelling tours. Some of these offered bouts between combatants, similar to what you see today. The late William Muldoon was one of the pioneers in this area. Other promoters would run a scam where someone with the promotion would move into a new town, take up work as a blacksmith or laborer, and impress the townspeople with his strength. Then, a month later, the traveling carnival would move into town and would offer an open challenge to anyone who would take on their "touring champion." The new guy in town would take the challenge, lose, and everyone who had bet on him would lose too. Suddenly, the local strongman would leave town, he'd meet up with the carnival a little ways away, and the scam would be redone in the next town and the next, with him splitting the bet money with the office.

UPCOMING INTERVIEWS: "FLYING" BILLY ANDERSON- TRAINER OF STING & ULTIMATE WARRIOR-
TALKS ABOUT HIS WRESTLING IN THE GREAT TERRITORIES, MEXICO & JAPAN.
ALSO: LANO SITS DOWN WITH JOHNNY VALENTINE AND BUDDY ROGERS!

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EG: Yet you didn't focus on this aspect in your book, but rather you presented biographies of Fred Beell, Frank Gotch, and William Muldoon.

DP: No room to include everything in one book, no matter how fascinating. For example, I found miners and others half wrestling matches down in Bisbee and Tombstone in the 1880's (Arizona). I read an account or two of "fixing" going on to enable the promotion to benefit on side bets and the spectators never seemed to catch on. Dr. George Goodfellow, Tombstone's official doctor and gunshot wound specialist, gave a really profound statement when he voiced disgust over wrestling. He said, "These wrestlers are crazy. They go out there, risking breaking their necks, the promoter gives them $50, and they think they owe him the world!" Little did Goodfellow know it would be much the same over 100 years later.

EG: What are your future plans?

DP: I am going to print, after many delays, a fiction book with a wrestling them, called For The Love Of Honey, which has been talked about for decades now. Possible sequals to Wild West Characters are in the talking stages and I may also go ahead, for the hell of it, and print up a few Riot At The Garden type booklets on wrestling, just for old time's sake. I have quite a few things planned. My biggest regret though, is my mother died from Cancer on May 25 and will not live to see me finally getting the breaks I've busted my ass for. She was never a wrestling fan though. She hated it and thought it was ridiculous. My father liked it though. He was the real fan. When he dated my mother for the first time, he was pretty ignorant, because he took her to matches at the old Akron Armory. I recall how my father used to tell me about ticking off the fans around him because he'd always cheer for Hans Schmidt!

EG: Who would you personally rate as the top heels and babies of all the one's you've seen?

DP: The greatest heel tag team would be The Hell's Angels. They were small men who used a hippy/biker gimmick and the heat they got from the fans were unreal. They filled the old arena in Phoenix for months on end, and they always came up with some new way to cheat. Powder in the eyes, popsickle sticks, a tire iron, a bottle, brass knuckles. As a single wrestler though, I would rate The Sheik as the all-time best. It's sad to see he still tries to work a shot now and again. Why can't these guys hang it up without destroying the past memories of them in their prime? As a babyface, I would rate Bruno highly. I hated Bob Backlund when he was wrestling and thought him as dull as wallpaper, but I have deep respect for him now because he quit rather than be reduced to a circus clown like many other talented wrestlers who have prostituted themselves and their talents. I was never much of a baby fan though. I liked the bad guys. Dory Funk, Jr. was an outstanding baby. Always dignified, always polite, always dressed sharp. Lou Thesz too, would be one of my favorites and as I believe I said, not only the best baby, but also one of the all-time best ever, period.

EG: Who do you consider the worst then?

DP: There are too many to even begin narrowing it down. The wrestling world back then and even moreso now, may never have had a surplus of honesty and respectability, but it always had more than its fair share of jerks, bastards, liars, crooks, and backstabbers.

EG: And on that happy note, thank you!

Rocca a Moneymaker

1954

Argentina Rocca is on his way to being one of the biggest drawing cards in the history of wrestling. It is stated that the South American who is Italian born, has enticed over $3,000,000 through the turnstiles.

Probably one of the other great moneymakers of wrestling in the olden days was Jim Londos. No one can compute as to just what Londos drew in his forty years of grappling. A great prospect to break all records also is Verne Gagne who is only in his fifth year as a professional wrestler, but he is chalking up astounding gates throughout the land.

Wrestling- Then & Now is published monthly and is Copyright 1992 by Evan Ginzburg. Subscriptions are $15/Yr and $7.50/6 months. Single sample issues are $1.25. All back issues are available at $1.25 issue. Overseas add $1 per issue and make all payments in U.S. funds. All checks should be made to Evan Ginzburg.

"Remembering the Past"

By David Williamson

For the most part of 1982, I lived in Birmingham, Alabama. Every Monday night I would be at Boutwell Auditorium to witness the exciting cards put on by Southeastern Wrestling Promotions. This group was REALLY HOT the spring and summer of 1982. I saw many great matches back then.

The Sheepherders (Johnathan Boyd and Luke Williams) were the # 1 team in the area. For the most part of 1982 this hated team held the Southeastern Tag Team belts. Though they were challenged by many different teams, Ron and Robert Fuller had a long and violent feud with the Sheepherders. The Fuller's cousin Jimmy Golden, also ended up getting involved before it all ended.

Some of the others in the Alabama area back then were Ken Lucas, Tony Charles, Joe Leduc, Jacques Rougeau, Don Carson, Ted Oates, Cocoa Somoa, and Freebirds Terry Gordy and Michael Hayes.

Terry Gordy first entered the area as a rulebreaker and it wasn't long, before former partner Michael Hayes arrived and they renewed their feud which had originated in Georgia in 1981. After some wild bouts, Gordy turned fan favorite after beating Hayes in a loser leaves town brawl held in Dothan, Alabama.

Gordy had some bouts with then NWA champ Ric Flair throughout the area. I was lucky enough to witness one of their encounters in Birmingham in early May. It was a classic match and proved to everyone that Terry Gordy had "ARRIVED" as a full fledged star.

Gordy then got involved in a rough, bloody feud with the Canadian powerhouse, Joe Leduc. These two had some brutal bouts before Leduc got the Alabama title and beat Gordy in a loser leave match.

Like most elsewhere in 1982, wrestling action in Birmingham, Alabama was red hot! I'm just glad I was there to enjoy it.

NEW YORK IS SIZZLING

1954

Madison Square Garden in New York has become one of the great mat centers of the nation. In three shows, the cards have grossed $118,000. A return match between Argentina Rocca and Verne Gagne, TV United States heavyweight champion, will hit around the $50,000 mark. This clash will be staged in February.

MATCHES OF BILLY GRAHAM AS W.W.W.F. CHAMPION

COMPILED BY HOWARD ROTH

WON OVER	DATE	PLACE
BRUNO SAMMARTINO	4/30/77	MARYLAND
BILLY WHITEWOLF	5/7/77	CONNECTICUT
TONY GAREA	5/10/77	MAINE
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	5/11/77	MAINE
TONY GAREA	5/13/77	NEW YORK
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	5/14/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
TONY GAREA	5/15/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
GORILLA MONSOON	5/16/77	NEW YORK
IVAN PUTSKI	5/18/77	NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOE LEDUC	5/21/77	FLORIDA
BILLY WHITEWOLF	5/23/77	NEW YORK
BOB BACKLUND	5/27/77	MISSOURI
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	6/3/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	6/4/77	PENNSYLVANIA
TONY GAREA	6/5/77	CONNECTICUT
HAYSTACKS CALHOUN	6/6/77	NEW YORK
TONY GAREA	6/7/77	PENNSYLVANIA
BOB SLAUGHTER	6/16/77	KANSAS
BOB SLAUGHTER	6/17/77	MISSOURI
CARLOS ROCHA	6/18/77	RHODE ISLAND
HAYSTACKS CALHOUN	6/20/77	NEW YORK
HAYSTACKS CALHOUN	6/22/77	MAINE
TONY GAREA	6/23/77	MAINE
LARRY ZYBYSKO	6/25/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
TONY GAREA	7/9/77	PENNSYLVANIA
LARRY ZYBYSKO	7/11/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
KEN PATERA	7/12/77	MAINE
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	7/10/77	CANADA
LARRY ZYBYSKO	7/13/77	MAINE
BOBO BRAZIL	7/16/77	MARYLAND
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	7/17/77	CONNECTICUT
TONY GAREA	8/3/77	MAINE
LARRY ZYBYSKO	8/8/77	NEW YORK
JACK BRISCO	8/10/77	FLORIDA
JIMMY VALIANT	8/12/77	MISSOURI
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	8/15/77	NEW JERSEY
LARRY ZYBYSKO	8/20/77	PENNSYLVANIA
PETER MAIVIA	8/21/77	CONNECTICUT
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	8/22/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	8/27/77	MARYLAND
IVAN PUTSKI	8/29/77	NEW YORK
PETER MAIVIA	9/5/77	NEW JERSEY
LARRY ZYBYSKO	9/9/77	PENNSYLVANIA
ROCKY JOHNSON	9/10/77	FLORIDA
TONY GAREA	9/12/77	NEW YORK
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	9/19/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
PETER MAIVIA	9/24/77	RHODE ISLAND
LARRY ZYBYSKO	10/20/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
IVAN PUTSKI	10/21/77	NEW YORK
DUSTY RHODES	10/24/77	NEW YORK
TONY GAREA	11/5/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
IVAN PUTSKI	11/6/77	CONNECTICUT
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	11/10/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
IVAN PUTSKI	11/14/77	NEW YORK
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	11/15/77	MAINE
PETER MAIVIA	11/16/77	MAINE

LOST TO	DATE	PLACE
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	6/1/77	MAINE
DUSTY RHODES	7/20/77	FLORIDA
PETER MAIVIA	8/2/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
BLACK ANGUS	8/11/77	KANSAS
IVAN PUTSKI	8/13/77	PENNSYLVANIA
PETER MAIVIA	8/19/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
DUSTY RHODES	8/24/77	FLORIDA
IVAN PUTSKI	9/1/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
PETER MAIVIA	9/13/77	MAINE
IVAN PUTSKI	9/14/77	MAINE
BRUNO SAMMARTINO	9/17/77	PENNSYLVANIA
DUSTY RHODES	9/26/77	NEW YORK
PETER MAIVIA	10/26/77	MAINE
IVAN PUTSKI	10/29/77	MARYLAND
IVAN PUTSKI	11/7/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
PEDRO MORALES	11/22/77	FLORIDA
DUSTY RHODES	11/23/77	FLORIDA
DUSTY RHODES	11/24/77	FLORIDA
IVAN PUTSKI	12/4/77	CONNECTICUT
BRUNO SAMMARTINO	12/10/77	PENNSYLVANIA
IVAN PUTSKI	12/16/77	PENNSYLVANIA
BOBO BRAZIL	12/18/77	MICHIGAN
MIL MASCARAS	12/19/77	NEW YORK
DUSTY RHODES	12/21/77	FLORIDA
BOB BACKLUND	12/27/77	MAINE
DUSTY RHODES	1/14/78	MARYLAND
BOB BACKLUND	1/14/78	PENNSYLVANIA
DUSTY RHODES	1/16/78	MASSACHUSSETTS
CHAVO GUERRERO	2/10/78	CALIFORNIA
BOB BACKLUND	2/11/78	MARYLAND
BOB BACKLUND	2/20/78	NEW YORK
(LOST TITLE)		

DREW WITH

CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	5/25/77	PENNSYLVANIA
BRUNO SAMMARTINO	5/28/77	MARYLAND
KEN PATERA	5/31/77	MAINE
BRUNO SAMMARTINO	6/27/77	NEW YORK
IVAN PUTSKI	7/15/77	PENNSYLVANIA
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	7/18/77	NEW YORK
BRUNO SAMMARTINO	8/1/77	NEW YORK
BOB BACKLUND	12/6/77	MAINE
HARLEY RACE	1/25/78	FLORIDA

****

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MATCHES OF BILLY GRAHAM AS W.W.W.F. CHAMPION (CONTINUED)

WON OVER	DATE	PLACE
PETER MAIVIA	11/18/77	PENNSYLVANIA
PETER MAIVIA	11/21/77	NEW YORK
LARRY ZYBYSKO	11/26/77	MARYLAND
TONY GAREA	11/27/77	MICHIGAN
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	12/5/77	MARYLAND
PETER MAIVIA	12/7/77	MAINE
TONY GAREA	12/8/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
IVAN PUTSKI	12/12/77	MASSACHUSSETTS
GORILLA MONSOON	12/15/77	PENNSYLVANIA
STAN STASIAK	11/20/77	CANADA
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	12/11/77	CANADA
GORILLA MONSOON	12/26/77	NEW YORK
IVAN PUTSKI	12/29/77	NEW JERSEY
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	1/5/78	NEW JERSEY
TONY GAREA	1/7/78	MARYLAND
LARRY ZYBYSKO	1/8/78	CONNECTICUT
DON MURACO	1/11/78	FLORIDA
RAYMOND ROUGEAU	1/13/78	GEORGIA
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	1/17/78	NEW YORK
PETER MAIVIA	1/18/78	NEW JERSEY
MIL MASCARAS	1/23/78	NEW YORK
PETER MAIVIA	1/27/78	NEW YORK
STRONG KOBAYASHI	2/6/78	JAPAN
RIKI CHOSHU	2/7/78	JAPAN
SEIJI SAKAGUCHI	2/8/78	JAPAN
PETER MAIVIA	2/13/78	NEW JERSEY
PETER MAIVIA	2/14/78	PENNSYLVANIA
TONY GAREA	2/16/78	NEW YORK
IVAN PUTSKI	2/17/78	PENNSYLVANIA
BRUNO SAMMARTINO	2/18/78	PENNSYLVANIA
EDUARDO CARPENTIER	2/19/78	CANADA

LOOKING FOR TITLE HISTORIES:

G W I T Y L

MAJOR TITLE HISTORY PROJECT TO BE ANNOUNCED

CO-EDITED BY ROYAL DUNCAN

Gary Will
55 Caroline Street North, #901
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 6B9

Salary Cuts For 'Grunt' Men

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—AP—It's a sad state the old sport of wrestling has reached hereabouts.

For several years the New York State Athletic commission has refused to recognize any wrestling championships, ruling all bouts must be billed as "exhibitions." Yesterday, at the request of Jess McMahon, representing mat promoters, the commissioners agreed to reduce the minimum wage of wrestlers from $10 to $8 per exhibition.

11-15-39

WWF Women's Title

56/09/18	Fabulous Moolah	
84/07/23	Wendi Richter	New York
	Lelani Kai	
85/03/31	Wendi Richter [2]	New York
85/11/25	Fabulous Moolah [2]	New York
	Wins title as masked Spiderlady	
	Velvet McIntyre	Australia
	Fabulous Moolah [3]	Australia
87/07/24	Sherri Martel	Houston
88/10/07	Rockin' Robin	Paris
90	TITLE ABANDONED	

RALPH L. GLICKMAN
of 656 S. RIDGELEY DR.,
Los Angeles, Ca. 90036
is looking for 8X10's
of wrestlers of past.

WWF Women's Tag Team Title

	Joyce Grable & Wendi Richter	
83/05	Desiree Peterson & Velvet McIntyre	Calgary
85/08	Glamor Girls: Lelani Kai & Judy Martin	
	Supposedly win title in Egypt	
88/01/24	Jumping Bomb Angels: Itsuki Yamazaki & Noriyo Tateno	Hamilton
88/06/08	Glamor Girls: Lelani Kai & Judy Martin [2]	Omiya
	Win title by countout	
	TITLE ABANDONED	

TITLE HISTORIES SUBMITTED BY ROYAL DUNCAN & GARY WILL. THANKS!

I AM TRULY "IN THE KNOW" - NOW AND THEN

by Vic Stanley

At what point does a person realize that he or she is actually a bona fide "hard core fan?" Speaking only for myself, I thought it was when I discovered the newsletters. This experience opened up a whole new world for me. Suddenly, I knew who the wrestlers really were, what they were really doing, and why they were really doing it. I also saw wrestling as an interesting business rather than as a mere pseudo-sport.

Then I thought that I had really gone "hard core" when I became an editor myself, although I still don't really consider myself a peer to those who have been doing this for years. Although I have not yet proven myself, I would like to think that I have at least cracked the top 100 (or 200) of the wrestling zines, but that is not for me to say.

After a while, once certain contacts were established, certain lines of communication were opened, and mutual trust was developed, I realized that there is yet another level of wrestling consciousness in existance which transcends even the select ranks of the "Smart Newsletter" readers. This elite clan is more exclusive and secretive than even the Tri-Lateral Commission.

I did not become a truly hard core fan until very recently when I began to receive mysterious, late night phone calls featuring the hushed, excited whispers of those just returning from house shows, TV tapings and other direct contact with the "behind the scenes" wrestling business. These voices were anxious to report hot and scandalous gossip and I was even more anxious to listen. I never thought that there would be a more immediate source of information than the newsletters - until now. Now there is instant gratification. At the very moments that specific events are transpiring, I know about them. Wow! Much of this stuff is so hot that it will never see the light of day even in the most prominent newsletters. These are the unsubstantiated, although probably factual rumors which editors teasingly allude to, but due to potentially libelous situations, never report directly. I wish I could tell you what I have heard but it wouldn't be fair to those who place their trust in my confidentiality. Let's just say that certain wrestlers and organizations are going to have a very bad year in 1992. Careers will flounder or end altogether due to their personal habits, and prominent companies will be subpoened for various legal indiscretions. The game is getting rough.

Recently, I received a call from a very reliable source who told me of Sting no-showing a house show in Baltimore. Our thoughts ran wild as we speculated about yet another overture from Vince McMahon. It seemed odd timing for such a move since Sting was being readied to assume the WCW title from Luger. Could the WWF possibly be jockeying for both of them? In a single, followup phone call, I learned that Sting had no-showed not only in Baltimore, but also a few other shows, because his wife had a baby. A good enough reason, no doubt. But in the same conversation, I also heard a lot of other stories, rumors and scandalous facts which make a mere promotional defection pale by comparison. I am flattered that I am considered to be a person who can keep a secret and I won't do anything to betray this trust. Besides, I don't want to be cut off at this point and called a weasel in the biz. It's just now starting to get interesting.

How should inquisitive fans go about getting into the type of situation that I have literally fallen into myself? It's as simple as the answer to the age old question of how to rid the world of disease and suffering. Just graduate from medical school at the top of your class, become a world reknowned doctor, get a multi-billion $ research grant, find the cure and become a multi-millionaire. Easy, ain't it?

Maybe I've blown my cover and betrayed the trust of others. Maybe I have committed a crime akin to exposing the business to little marks. Maybe I'll never again receive these mysterious, late night calls. Maybe my contacts will hang up on me when I call them. But then again, maybe not. I hope not! In the meantime, please don't mention this article to anyone.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Ray Gunkel, the Chicago heavyweight realizes he received a great opportunity when he gained Jack Dempsey as his manager. The popular pilot has inspired Ray and fans look for Gunkel to rise to great heights in the mat world.

BIG TIME WRESTLING

By Mike Lano

Evan and Mike Rodgers should be happy with the Canvas Cavity weekly show we recently cut. I wanted to do a this is your life, Gilbertesque piece on Roy Shire and his beloved old S.F. Big Time Wrestling promotion- which ran from 1959(when he pulled a takeover of popular promoter Joe Malkowitz) till he folded in 1981(after he stopped Sacramento taping and first let Kansas, and then Dusty's Florida group book things unsuccesstully). In fact, Dusty probably came up with that "out in left field" remark Jim Ross said on the ppv about Roy Shires tie-in with the U.S. belt. The last US Champ in S.F. was Dusty, who beat Ole Anderson in a "tourny finale" at the Cow Palace, after Ron Starr, George Welles and Kansas bowed out. Dusty couldn't fit the small belt around his waist, so we had to shoot shots of it around his shoulder back then. Roy recently showed me the old belt, and some of his old tag belts-which went unchanged for all those years. Roy is a sharp,albeit sweet old guy who'll tell you in an instant he's a racist, refusing to dine even now with black people. "But that never stopped me from putting over Johnson and Welles like I did. I'm a businessman first." Roy is quite a character, and was moved at the This Is Your Life Show I did for him.

We had all his former employees living locally, come together for the first time since the late 70's on the Canvas Cavity tv show. Kinji Shibuya, Pepper Gomez, Gearhardt Gary Kaiser, Jerry Monti, Mae Young, Pampiro Firpo(the latter two didn't want to go on camera); and later by phone-Roy's top ref Frank Noceti, Rocky Johnson, Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens. The tv host of BTW, Hank Renner and longtime Cow Palace ring announcer and program guru Allen Bolte also were there. Hank, in ill-health and on medication managed to last thru the show. He cried at the end, not having seen some of the boys since he retired back around 1979. Recently I've spoken to Red Bastien, Bockwinkle and Verne about doing something like this a few times a year-honoring each of the old circuits. Showing old matches and having as many of that circuit's people attend seems to give a glow to the screen. Other than shows for Don Owens Oregon, Mike Lebell's L.A., Stu Hart's Calgary and the AWA- what would you historians like to see? As an addendum to my jobbers piece, without all those jobbers- there wouldn't be any guys on top(kudos to Gilbert and Horowitz!)

SPECIAL THANKS TO TIM D'ALLIARD FOR HIS SPECIAL SUPPORT OF WT&N!

Kilshaw Family Business Is Promoting Matches

By CYNTHIA WOODY

On Wednesday nights for 55 years Pauline Kilshaw has attended wrestling or boxing matches, but she has never seen one.

Son Jimmy Kilshaw has done everything there is to do in wrestling but wrestle. Likewise for his brother, Billy Kilshaw.

Older son Jimmy attended his first wrestling match at the age of six weeks, as a youngster distributed handbills and flyers and later served as referee. As match maker, he has promoted wrestling, booked the state of Louisiana, worked as business agent, publicist and has also put up the ring, awarded plaques collected money and tickets. Billy, too, has shared the chores, but neither of them has ever watched a complete match — they have always been too busy working. Yes, they have watched matches on television, but that is not the same.

Pauline Kilshaw married a city fireman and one-time amateur boxer whose real interest was promoting boxing and wrestling matches. Mrs. Jimmy Kilshaw reared two sons, learned the business and became friends with many of the mat stars and their families.

After her husband died of a stroke she "got in there and did what he was doing," and has been at it ever since. Her husband, the senior Kilshaw, died in 1949, and now 28 years later Pauline has no intentions of letting-up or letting go of the family enterprise so much a part of her life.

This homemaker — once-removed with grandchildren and great grandchildren, knows a good thing when she sees it or rather when she's in the middle of it. Wrestling is the number one sport of the world in number of participants and in numb · of viewing fans. The reason, explained heavy weight champion Cowboy Bill Watts, is that wrestling bouts are held everywhere, in the biggest auditoriums in the largest cities as well as in the smaller halls of towns and communities. Wrestling matches are hel every night of the week in every city an town across the width and breadth o America, he stated, echoing what Paulin Kilshaw already knew.

Before Independence Hall was closed the Kilshaw family promoted wrestlin matches there to Wednesday night crowds of 2,500. "Many nights we have turned away a crowd of 500," she remarked.

The potential of wrestling has never been tested in this city, claims Jimmy Kilshaw, who, ironically, as chief civil deputy for East Baton Rouge parish, had to seize the White House Inn and Independence Hall, putting himself out of the promotion business.

Three months later, the Kilshaws were in operation again at the Baton Rouge Sports Center, formerly a union hall, located off Airline Highway. However, 48-year-old Jimmy Kilshaw sees ahead better opportunity for promoting wrestling as he dickers for space in the new Centroplex auditorium.

People like wrestling because it is an exciting contact sport; people like violence, said the promoter nervously. Other people may like violence but Pauline Kilshaw does not. The worst experience she can recall in the years of tending the family business at ringside was watching "her boys" get hurt.

One annoyed wrestler in disagreement with referee Billy's decision knocked out his teeth. Mother cried all night, "'cause Billy had gorgeous teeth." Then another time Jimmy was taken to the hospital for a concussion, having been similarly struck. Two hulking wrestlers after one another outside of the ring pinned Mrs. Kilshaw against a money drawer, cracking a rib.

What's a bruise of two along the way, its all part of the game. Wrestling and the Kilshaws are synonomous.

Orndorff defeats Jerry Brown 6/6/78

Paul Orndorff used a flying body scissors to subdue Jerry Brown in 17 minutes of their North American heavyweight title match and Ray Candy beat Ernie Ladd, four falls to three, in a Texas rules match Tuesday in professional wrestling at Municipal Auditorium.

Candy had to be carried from the ring after his victory.

Ali Bey beat Don Kodiak in 10:24, Brian Blair used a cross body block to send Dan Johnson out in 10 minutes and Jose Lothario won a disqualification over Bobby Jaggers

Tag Team Bout Ends in Double Disqualification

Before the largest crowd in Baton Rouge pro wrestling history, Steven Little Bear and Ray Candy, and The Brute and The Assassin suffered a double disqualification in the Louisiana tag-team title match at the Riverside Centroplex Wednesday night.

Referee Jerry Usher made the decision when he could no longer maintain order in the ring.

Paul Orndorff retained his North American heavyweight title by defeating superstar Ernie Ladd in a one-fall feature.

In other matches Ricky Fields upset Larry Booker; The Turk won over Randy Brewer and Erik The Red defeated Brian Blair in other matches. 7/19/78

☆ ARENA REPORT ☆

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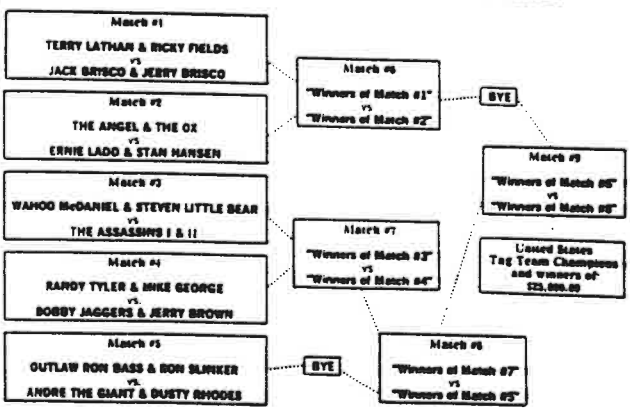

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BOB MARKUS, Texas vs. European Heavyweight Champion BARON KARL VON KRUPP, Germany

JIM SHIELDS, Oklahoma vs. BILL IRWIN, Minnesota

Are Wrestling Matches Faked?

By Fred Kohler 1952

Editor's Note: Fred Kohler, who believes in keeping the wrestling public informed as to human interest questions frequently asked of him, continues his policy in answering what the public wants to know.

Q.—Are wrestling matches faked?

A.—Of all the questions received from wrestling fans, the above question is the one most frequently asked. The reason this question is asked so frequently is that the fan and layman are not familiar with the intricacies of wrestling as a contest.

They look at a wrestling contest as an endeavor by one athlete to pin the shoulders of his opponent to the mat for a count of three or to compel him to submit or concede a fall to his opponent because of the pain he experiences from the application of a submission hold by his opponent. The average wrestling fan knows that to accomplish their purpose, wrestlers resort to the use of various holds and maneuvers and the fan familiarizes himself with the names of the holds most frequently used. This usually suffices in permitting them to enjoy viewing a wrestling bout.

Many maneuvers and holds are used that may convey the idea that the contest is faked. This is because the fan lacks the knowledge that clever wrestlers, to maneuver an opponent into a position whereby a pinning hold, a submission hold or a harassing grip can be applied, they will fake certain holds and maneuvers similar to the way basketball, hockey, football or even soccer players will fake passes, blocks and kicks to maneuver their opponents off balance or out of position.

Many times a wrestler will feign injury; this is done deliberately in some cases to give their opponents a feeling of overconfidence and open himself up whereby his opponent could apply a hold that would gain him an advantage. In some cases a wrestler will actually receive an injury to his leg or his arm and feign injury to the opposite member or to the leg or arm which has not been injured. This is done to encourage the opponent to concentrate on the apparently injured member, while the arm or leg which is actually injured has a chance to recuperate.

Many other things to consider in answering the above question; first of all the manner of paying wrestlers for services they render in these contests; second the amount of money they earn and how their earning power is regulated. Showmanship is another matter that must be taken into consideration in answering the question.

The wrestlers are paid a percentage of the gate receipts. The total percentage paid varies from 40 to 70 per cent, and the preliminary wrestler, that is those appearing in the first, second and third bouts, receive a smaller percentage than the semi-windup and windup wrestlers. The preliminary percentage varies from one to five per cent of the gross receipts. The semi-windup varies from four to eight per cent and the windup wrestlers' percentage of the gross receipts varies from seven to as high as forty per cent for an individual wrestler.

There aren't many wrestlers receiving forty per cent of the receipts, but outstanding wrestlers such as the Champions, Gorgeous George and some foreign wrestlers receive pretty high percentages.

It is only logical to assume that preliminary wrestlers would like to earn more money by wrestling in the windup matches, and their demand by promoters and the public to appear in windup matches is governed by their ability to win matches in the preliminary class and acquire prestige as a great wrestler.

The average year's earnings for preliminary wrestlers varies from $8,000 to $15,000 a year and the windup wrestlers average from $15,000 to $50,000 a year. Considering all this, it isn't logical to believe that a wrestler would impair his earning capacity by losing a match to another wrestler if he had the ability to defeat him. Prestige and pride are goals that all wrestlers strive for because with it come windup matches and higher percentages, which mean increased earnings.

There are a great number of wrestlers that realize they do not have the ability to get into the windup class, and are content to earn from $8,000 to $15,000 a year. However, they know that even though they do lose matches, they must instill a certain amount of showmanship into their wrestling so that those fans who pay the freight enjoy the exhibition.

Considering showmanship and arriving at a decision as to where the borderline is between a wrestling contest, a wrestling exhibition and a fake contest, a wrestling fan would be at a complete loss unless he or she would have had years of experience as a professional wrestler and years of experience in promoting commercialized sports contests, whether they be baseball, football, hockey, basketball or ping pong.

The ability to use showmanship in practically every line of business, whether it be manufacturing, publishing, selling or building, can measure the success of the venture. A manufacturer will use showmanship in adding beauty to his product or even ugliness to his product. He will give great consideration to the packaging or wrapping of his article; he will make extraordinary claims about his article being the best. A publisher will demand catchy captions and sensational headlines on stories in his publication. In many cases the caption and headlines will have double meanings and are definitely intended to have a double meaning. Selling means advertising and using descriptive adjectives that are phenomenal and sensational when applied in describing the article, service or product that is being sold. The builder employs the architect that can put all the fancy trimmings to a building project that are appealing to the eye. All of the above things come in the category of showmanship.

...and remember... the stupider the gimmick, the more likely we are to be picked up by the majors...

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BUDDY ROGERS WITH JOHNNY VALENTINE!
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BILL ANDERSON
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